

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **New Section of Monterey Bay Recreation Trail Completed**

The City of Monterey and California State Parks will celebrate the completion of a new segment of the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail at 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 10. The public is invited to attend the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the Monterey Beach Hotel near the intersection of Canyon Del Rey and Highway 1.

Completion of this project culminates a long term partnership effort to preserve the Del Monte Dunes and make it available for public use. California State Parks, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish and Game, and Wildlife Conservation Board pooled their resources to purchase the 34 acre Del Monte Dunes and add it to Monterey State Beach in 1991. At the time of the acquisition, a recreation trail across the dunes was envisioned to enhance public coastal access.

Following public acquisition of the property, the City of Monterey identified the trail as a top priority in their Bikeway Plan. The city took a lead role in securing city, state and grant funds to design and construct the trail. Because the trail traverses sensitive dune habitat restoration of the dunes was integrated into the project design. As a result, the trail has been constructed in a manner that increases native dune habitat on the site by eight acres.

Construction of a new 30 space coastal access parking area south of the Monterey Beach Hotel will begin soon to replace the parallel parking spaces lost when Sand Dunes Drive was converted to a trail as part of the project.

"California State Parks is pleased that the City of Monterey served as the lead agency for the trail project management," said Lynn Rhodes, Monterey District Superintendent for California State Parks. "This new segment of the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail will benefit our visitors and our local communities, including California State University Monterey Bay. The City of Monterey and State Parks have worked together to enable the project to be constructed. The City took the lead with the design and construction work while State Parks is leading the habitat restoration efforts. It is a great partnership."

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“This new trail improves connections between Monterey, Seaside and Sand City,” according to Monterey Mayor Dan Albert. “This trail will enable the public to access the Del Monte Dunes and enjoy spectacular views of Monterey Bay for the first time. This great project enhances the City of Monterey as a tourist destination and creates another amenity for the residents of Monterey to enjoy.”

For more information contact Andrea McMurray, Assistant Civil Engineer with the City of Monterey at (831) 646-3970 or Ken Gray with California State Parks at (831) 649-2836.

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